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sequence in an amount greater than expression of said at least one nucleotide sequence without said inducing condition.

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3. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said promoter is a mammalian promoter active in a plurality of different tissues.

4. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 3, wherein said mammalian promoter is active in one or more tissues selected from the group consisting of cardiac muscle, skeletal muscle, vascular endothelium, brain, retina, kidney, liver, lung, bone marrow and spleen.

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6. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 5, wherein said cell-type specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of a cardiac muscle-specific promoter, a skeletal muscle-specific promoter, endothelial cell-specific promoters, a neuron-specific promoter, a glia-specific promoter, a retina-specific promoter, a kidney-specific promoter, a liver-specific promoter, a lung-specific promoter, a lymphocyte-specific promoter, a myeloid specific promoter, and a tumor-specific promoter.

7. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one of said silencer elements is a neuron restrictive silencer (NRS) element to which neuron restrictive silencer (NRS) transcription factor binds.

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11. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one of said conditionally inducible elements is a hypoxia response enhancer (HRE) element to which hypoxia inducible factor-1 (HIF-1) transcription factor binds.

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13. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one of said conditionally inducible elements is a hypoxia response enhancer (HRE) element to which hypoxia inducible factor-1 (HIF-1) transcription factor does not bind.

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16. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one of said conditionally inducible elements is selected from the group consisting of a metal response element (MRE), heat response element, a hormone response element, and growth factor response element.

17. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one of said conditionally inducible elements is an NF- κ B responsive element to which NF- κ B transcription factor binds.

18. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said at least one nucleotide sequence is a functional coding region of a gene selected from the group consisting of adenosine deaminase, angiotensins, apoptosis inhibitor protein, angiostatin, B-cell CLL/lymphoma (BCL2), catalase, deoxyribonuclease, DT-diaphorase, endostatin, erythropoietin, fibroblast growth factors (FGF), fumagillin, 13-globin, glutathione peroxidase, granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), heat shock transcription factor, hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), interferons, tissue metalloproteinase inhibitor, nitric oxide synthases, platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), proliferin, somatomedin C (IGF-1), superoxide dismutase, survivin, thymidine kinase, tissue plasminogen activator, tumor protein p53 (TP53), urokinase, and vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGF).

19. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said at least one nucleotide sequence is a functional coding region of a reporter gene selected from the group consisting of chloramphenicol transferase, green fluorescent protein, red fluorescent protein, β -galactosidase, β -glucuronidase, β -lactamase, and luciferase.

20. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said at least one nucleotide sequence is a functional portion of a gene selected from the group consisting of MDM2, tumor protein p53 (TP53), endothelin-1, tumor necrosis factor (TNF), interleukin, interferon (IFN), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and other cytokines, and wherein said expressed region is positioned in the antisense orientation relative to said promoter.

21. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one silencer element and at least one conditionally inducible element are heterologous with respect to each other.

22. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one silencer element and one conditionally inducible element are arranged within 500 nucleotides of each other.

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23. (Amended) The expression vector of claim 1 which is a plasmid present in a formulation for introduction into a cell by a technique selected from the group consisting of electroporation, microinjection, and infusion.

Please add new claims 42-59:

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42. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said expression vector contains one or more signals selected from the group consisting of a Kozak consensus sequence upstream of said nucleotide sequence, one or more mRNA degradation signals, a termination of transcription signal, a polyadenylation signal, and a 3' cleavage signal.

43. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one silencer element and one conditionally-inducible element are separated by no more than 50 nucleotides.

44. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one silencer element and one conditionally-inducible element are separated by no more than 100 nucleotides.

45. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein at least one silencer element and one conditionally-inducible element are separated by no more than 200 nucleotides.

46. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said expression vector comprises at least two different silencer elements.

47. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said expression vector comprises at least two different conditionally inducible elements.

48. (New) The expression vector of claim 1 wherein at least one of said silencer elements and at least one of said conditionally inducible elements overlap.

49. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said expression vector contains at least two of said silencer elements and at least two of said conditionally inducible elements, and wherein said silencer elements and said conditionally inducible elements alternate.

50. (New) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said expression vector contains at least two of said silencer elements and at least two of said conditionally inducible elements, and wherein said silencer elements and said conditionally inducible elements alternate.

51. (New) The vector of claim 1, wherein said silencer-inducible region is in the sense orientation with respect to said nucleotide sequence.

52. (New) The vector of claim 1, wherein said silencer-inducible region is in the antisense orientation with respect to said nucleotide sequence.

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53. (New) An isolated expression vector comprising (a) one or more silencer elements and one or more conditionally inducible elements to form a silencer-inducible region, and (b) a promoter in operative linkage with at least one silencer-inducible region, wherein said promoter is thereby regulated by said at least one silencer-inducible region, and said promoter is upstream of a polylinker, said polylinker containing a plurality of restriction endonuclease recognition sites, wherein, when a nucleotide sequence is cloned into one of said restriction endonuclease recognition sites in said polylinker, said expression vector under an inducing condition expresses said nucleotide sequence in an amount greater than the expression of said at least one nucleotide sequence without said inducing condition.

54. (New) The expression vector of claim 53, wherein said promoter is a viral promoter.

55. (New) The expression vector of claim 53, wherein said promoter is a mammalian promoter active in a plurality of different tissues.